

Speaker biographies

Ken Levine, Texas Sunset Commission

Ken Levine is the Director of the Sunset Commission. Before being appointed to this position in October of 2009, he had served as Deputy Director of the Commission since 1995. He has worked for the Sunset Commission and the Texas Legislature in various roles since 1981 and has performed or supervised policy evaluation projects in almost every functional area of state government. Ken is the past chair of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society and is a staff vice-chair of National Conference of State Legislatures' (NCSL) Standing Committee on Budget and Revenue. He also serves on NCSL's Deficit Reduction Task Force. Ken has a BA in Government from the University of Texas at Austin and a Masters in Public Affairs from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. Ken has spoken on Sunset reviews and performance evaluation at state, national and international meetings.

Debbie Puzzo, Delaware Joint Sunset Committee

For the past twelve years, Debbie Puzzo has served in various positions within the Delaware General Assembly. Debbie currently serves as Executive Director for the Joint Sunset Committee. She has also worked as a part-time caucus secretary, House/Senate Liaison, and Task Force Administrator for the Delaware House of Representatives. Debbie lives at the Delaware beach and enjoys kayaking, outdoor activities and spending time with her two grown daughters.

Gary VanLandingham, Pew Center on the States

Gary VanLandingham is Director of the Pew Center on the States' Results First Initiative, which is working with states to advance evidence-based policy solutions and is supporting states' use of cost-benefit analysis models. Prior to joining Pew in 2011, Gary was Director of the Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability, the Florida Legislature's policy research and evaluation unit. He has served as national Staff Chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Chair of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, and President of the North Florida Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration and the Southeast Evaluation Association. He has a Ph.D. in public administration and public policy from the Florida State University.